GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2603
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2017
Use of Pesticides
Noor Smt. Mausam

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing use of pesticides by vegetable vendors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is aware of the reports that appeared in the media from time to time regarding presence of pesticides above the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) fixed by it in respect of various agricultural commodities including vegetables. As per information made available by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, around 3% of samples of vegetables picked up from various Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee markets, local markets, farm gate, organic outlets and Public Distribution systems had MRLs above prescribed limits. However, samples of fruits and vegetables drawn from Food Business Operators by States/UTs during 2014-15 and 2015-16 and tested, were not found to contain pesticides above MRLs notified by FSSAI. The washing and processing of vegetable and fruits helps in removal of residues of pesticides to a large extent. As per provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, insecticides are not permitted to be used directly on articles of food except fumigants registered and approved under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 prescribe maximum limits of pesticides for various food products.
(b): Implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 and regulations thereunder primarily rests with the Food Safety Departments of the States/Union Territories. Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products is undertaken by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/ UTs to ensure that food products comply with laid down standards. In cases, where food samples are found to be non-conforming to the prescribed standards, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS Act, 2006.
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